

"We approached this job as if we were at war," one construction company executive said later.

The prime contractor was Hensel Phelps Construction Company of Greeley, Colorado. HTB, Inc., was awarded the prime contract for continuing architectural and structural work. C.H. Guernsey & Company, the major sub-consultant, was assigned all mechanical and electrical design responsibilities.

Demolition of the acres of roof, the miles of damaged piping systems and electrical conduit, required one month of around-the-clock work. Although most of the materials and processes were to be relocated, a 35,000-square-foot building had to be constructed in the damaged area to protect specialized, computer-controlled milling machines. By Jan. 1, engine overhaul had resumed.

Construction began in early March, before the design work was complete and before the scope of the work was fully known. Work proceeded at an emergency pace, despite snow that fell inside the

roofless parts of 3001 and piled up at an alarming rate on the shaky roof. "They never stopped work inside that building," recalled Weldon Gamel, then Tulsa District Chief of Engineering Division. "No place else does the same work, and it's essential for defense." Despite fears that the structural damage could cause the building to collapse, workers had to remove asbestos from the building before repairs could be completed. The risks paid off, and construction was essentially complete in August 1985.

"It could not have been done without the highly cooperative attitude and dedicated, persistent effort of all involved entities and their personnel," said Guernsey Chairman C.H. Guernsey, Jr. "This is a project in which all concerned may take justifiable pride in the successful and rapid restoration of a facility so vital to the defense of the United States."⁵



The ten-month reconstruction project, largest ever for the Corps, required a veritable army of workers. Above, construction inspector Karen Rinaldi in safety gear. Below, after inspection of the burned-out hull, inspectors and field crews took the site by storm. Bottom right, complex contract negotiations produced agreements in record time — and a completed job ahead of schedule.

